

let her hear from me the story of your sin! Let her know you, the wretched thing that you are, and from my lips—" and then through the open door glides the beautiful form of the potter's daughter Mary—the wife of the man she loved so well. From my poor description little can be gathered of the beauty of the drama. In intensity of feeling, power of expression and dramatic effect, it ranks high in the world of theatrical representation and composition.

Our beautiful Fifth Avenue Theatre has gone up in smoke, and grievous are the lamentations over the unlvely ruins. Bernhardt and the Kondals will now have to be accommodated elsewhere if they are, as is confidently expected, to fulfil their contract with Mr. Miner for the coming season. From the outside the building does not look the wreck it is, but there are just sufficient marks of the fire marring its beautiful white walls to tell that the fiend has been at work inside, leaving all the possibilities of his ravages to be conjectured. The papers say that Mr. Miner's loss will be \$200,000, less \$20,000 for insurance, but this is probably an exaggeration.

The theatre of Hermann, the magician, had a very narrow escape, and nothing but the thickness of the walls of the burning theatre prevented the fire from spreading over half a block; in fact the morning papers, which went to press while the theatre was burning, stated as a fact that Hermann's Theatre and the Sturtevant Hotel had both been burned, giving losses and amounts of insurance. The evening papers had to rise and explain.

The theatres had only been out about twenty minutes, and Hermann's favorite dancing skeleton was just getting his weary bones into a comfortable position in his cotton-wool-lined mahogany casket, when he was startled by the cry of "fire." A moment later and the doors were broken in, and a huge coil of hose was carried through the auditorium across the stage to play on the adjoining theatre through a hole cut in the party wall. A panic ensued among the properties that the magician uses in creating his spells. Oufes and elves, and spooks and hobgoblins, and dancing skeletons and flying dragons, and loup-garrons and other uncanny folk, were all huddled together in one corner of the stage, rendered friendly for the moment by the imminence of a common danger. The senior skeleton forgot that one of the marionettes had only that afternoon irrelevantly and with most unbecoming levity enquired of him where he had procured a certain article of head-dress which he was at the moment affecting; and the vanishing doll, who is supposed to be able to travel any distance at will, said if it only had the use of a good pair of legs for about five minutes it wouldn't mind forfeiting all the other powers of locomotion it had ever possessed. And the fire-eater, when he thought on the situation, smote upon his breast and said: "So! am I now undone, or, rather, will probably be very well done, for now will they try to rescue all the others, but me will they leave to shift for myself, for they will say, 'Verily the fire hath no terror for him,' which I am that scared of fire, except as an article of diet, as never was." Mr. Hermann's loss is only about \$5,000, principally by water.

Speaking about theatres, I cannot help saying that, although the theatres here are so much larger and more magnificent, there are few of them that would be prettier than your own cosy little Academy of Music if it were re-painted and gilded, and withal treated in the manner it deserves.

I am glad to see that an effort is being made to do away with the detestable sweating system here, at least in one direction. Under this system the contractor, who comes between employer and employee, pockets a large percentage of the cash that passes through his hands, and thus the real worker loses the money which he or she ought to have.

A cloak manufacturer in the city is putting up a fine building for the accommodation of a large number of girls, who are to be paid for their skilled labor without the intervention of a grasping contractor. All the good wishes of philanthopists go with this charitably disposed and practical business man.

Yours truly,

SOPHIE M. ALMON-HENSLEY.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Canada, from the physical conformation of a considerable portion of it, abounds in bridges of almost every conceivable style and material. One of the latest and not the least remarkable of these structures is the railway bridge across the Kootenay, near Nelson, B. C. It is one of the longest of the class of single-span wooden truss bridges in the Dominion, the main span being more than 180 feet long. The river at this point is so rapid that it is impossible to put up false work, so that it must be thrown across without the aid of that usual device. The castings for the bridge were made at Vancouver, and the heaviest piece weighs 950 pounds. The rods are from this city. The timber used in its construction was (all except the stringers, which were brought from the coast) obtained at points along the river between Kootenay lake and Sproat.—*Montreal Gazette*.

We learn that the recently organized Kerr Vegetable Evaporating Co. have received an order from the British admiralty office for the supply of nearly 10,000 lbs. of evaporated vegetables for the British navy. The company are at present receiving large orders from the United States and Upper Canada.—*Kentville Star*.

M. G. Wall, who is cutting lumber for the Shulee Lumber Co., cut one day this week 35,000 feet of deals and boards with his mill, which is one of A. Robb & Sons heavy portables consisting of 50 h. p. Hercules engine, and 60 h. p. Monarch boiler, medium heavy stay and gang edge. Mr. Wall expects to cut 2,000,000 feet this winter.—*Chignecto Post*.

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